



# MULLIN'S NOTES

*The Official Newsletter of the 19th Assembly District*



MARCH 2007

# Welcome!



Welcome to my monthly newsletter. The 2007–08 legislative session has begun and this newsletter will serve as an effective link with you on my activities within the 19th Assembly District and in the State Capitol. I look forward to representing you and continuing our working partnership.

The newsletter will be a valuable resource for you on my legislation, budget matters, and other issues pertaining to California. Also, you will find information on exciting events

occurring throughout the district. Furthermore, my energetic and dedicated staff is here to answer any state-related questions or inquires that you may have.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at my Capitol or District offices to let me know how I can better serve you.

Sincerely,  
Gene Mullin

Assemblymember Gene Mullin spoke with a government class at Fernando Rivera Middle School. Photo by Bruce Erickson

## Disaster Relief Available to Small Businesses

The Department of the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) is offering low-interest disaster loans to small non-farm businesses who suffered economic injury caused by the freeze that began January 11, 2007. According to a recently report by the California Department of Food and Agriculture, outdoor flowers including daisies, iris, delphinium, and calla lilies have been severely damaged. In total, the recent freeze has caused \$400,000 in lost value for cut flowers.

For small businesses suffering adverse financial impacts as a result of the disaster, up to \$1,500,000 for working capital to help pay obligations until normal operations resume. Eligible small businesses also include those who do business directly with the growers or other agricultural producers such as packing houses, truckers, and suppliers of agricultural equipment or services. Owners of small “main street” businesses whose customers are dependent on agriculture income, such as diners, gas

stations, markets, etc. may also apply for these disaster loans.

Small business owners can contact a SBA Disaster Loan Outreach Representative by calling toll-free (800) 659-2955. Hearing impaired individuals may call toll-free (800) 877-8339. You can also visit SBA’s website at [www.sba.gov/services/disasterassistance](http://www.sba.gov/services/disasterassistance). The deadline to apply for these loans is October 24, 2007. Please contact my office if you need further assistance with these loans.

## ASSEMBLY SESSION SCHEDULE

The tentative Assembly session schedule for March 12–April 9, 2007 is as follows:

**March 12** Floor Session at 12 noon

**March 15** Floor Session at 9:30 a.m.

**March 16** No Floor Session. No Check-in Session.

**March 20–21** No Floor Session. No Check-in Session.

**March 22** Floor Session at 10:00 a.m.

**March 23** No Floor Session. No Check-in Session.

**March 26** Floor Session at 12 noon

**March 29** Floor Session at 9:30 a.m. Spring Recess begins upon adjournment (3/29 – 4/9)

**March 30** HOLIDAY – Cesar Chavez Day

**April 2–6** RECESS

**April 9** Floor Session at 12 noon Legislature reconvenes.

# Key Assembly Committees Assigned

*Committees Include Education, Budget, Housing and Wildlife*

I was honored to be selected by Assembly Speaker Fabian Núñez to serve on several key committees for the 2007–2008 Legislative Session. This year, I will be chairing the Assembly Committee on Education, with its primary jurisdictions in general education, certificated employees of schools, school finances, and school facilities. In addition, I have retained a seat on the Committee on Housing and Community Development, which I chaired for the last two years. I will also serve on the Committee on Water, Parks and Wildlife as well as the Committee on Public Employees, Retirement and Social Security.

Additionally, I will sit on the Budget committee, and I am one of only four



Photo by Russell Collins Stiger

Assemblymembers selected to serve on multiple Budget subcommittees: Budget Subcommittee #2, which centers on Education Finance, and Budget Subcommittee #4, State Administration, which covers all other fiscal areas.

I'm honored to take on

the responsibility of shaping California law in a variety of areas through my assignment to these diverse committees. I look forward to working with my colleagues in the Capitol to address the issues that matter most to our state's residents.

## Assemblymember Mullin Celebrates American Heart Month

BY SARAH PHELPS  
FIELD REPRESENTATIVE

In order to celebrate American Heart Month, Assemblymember Mullin co-authored ACR 5, sponsored by Assemblymember Patty Berg, which recognizes February 2007 as American Heart Month and February 2, 2007 as Wear Red Day in California. American Heart Month and Wear Red Day were created in 2004 to raise awareness about the effects of heart disease on women. Accord-

ing to the American Heart Association, heart disease is the #1 single killer of women over 25 in the United States, though only 13% actually view it as a health threat. In addition, 64% of women who died suddenly of coronary heart disease had no previous symptoms. For more information on how to analyze and reduce your risks of heart disease, contact your health care professional, or visit [www.hearttruth.gov](http://www.hearttruth.gov). For more information on ACR 5, please visit [www.leginfo.ca.gov](http://www.leginfo.ca.gov).





# Helen Karr Named 19<sup>th</sup> Assembly District Woman Of The Year

BY GERALDINE O'CONNOR  
DISTRICT DIRECTOR

Assemblymember Gene Mullin has selected Pacifica attorney Helen Karr as the 19<sup>th</sup> Assembly District Woman of the Year.

Ms. Karr's journey from beauty salon manager to Deputy District Attorney specializing in elder abuse was motivated by stories she heard of salon clients cheated of their life savings by family members. She was in her late 50's when an article about two older women attorneys providing low-cost legal services to seniors inspired her to enroll in law school. Helen Karr was admitted to the California bar on her 64<sup>th</sup> birthday, embarking on an inexhaustible crusade to prevent elder financial abuse.

Ms. Karr is a San Francisco Deputy District Attorney Elder Abuse Specialist and is also a legal research assistant to the State Bar of California's Office of Media and Information Services. She served as a California Senior Assembly (CSL) member for six years, testifying before the Senate and Assembly. Two of her CSL elder abuse proposals have been signed into law. Ms. Karr is a volunteer for San Mateo County's SAIF (Seniors Against Investment Fraud) program and is a member of the county Ombudsman's Board of Directors. In 2005



Photo by Russell Collins Stiger

Helen was recognized by the Corporation for National and Community Service when she received the "2005 Spirit of Service Award" and she was selected as Senator Dianne Feinstein's delegate to the 2005 White House Conference on Aging. Ms. Karr and her husband, a retired professor, have twelve grandchildren.

"I am so proud to convey Helen Karr's history of selfless advocacy to the State Assembly" Assemblymember Mullin stated, "I know that countless San Mateo County seniors join me in thanking Helen Karr for preserving the financial well being of our most vulnerable and beloved community members."

## OFFICE OF ASSEMBLYMEMBER GENE MULLIN

### *Staff Roster*

#### **Capitol Staff**

Sara Ramirez  
*Chief of Staff*

Darci Sears  
*Legislative Director*

Alisia Nantze  
*Scheduler*

Juan Cisneros  
*Receptionist*

#### **District Staff**

Geraldine O'Connor  
*District Director*

Sarah Phelps  
*Field Representative*

Mark Nagales  
*Field Representative*

Virginia Kroger  
*Receptionist/Scheduler*

# Millbrae Celebrates Lunar New Year



Photo by Mark Nagales

BY MARK NAGALES  
FIELD REPRESENTATIVE

Spirited lion dancers, colorful acrobats, and fearsome dragons descended on Millbrae for the 2nd annual Lunar New Year Festival. Considered to be the largest festival in the Peninsula to celebrate the year of the boar, the Mills High School dragon team led a procession of drums, firecrackers, and curious onlookers to the Millbrae Recreation Center. Upon arrival, the public enjoyed a fortune teller, traditional Chinese food, and vendors. Parade-goers also participated in simple kung fu and tai-chi exercises. To acknowledge this successful festival, Assemblymember Mullin provided a certificate of honor to the City of Millbrae for their outstanding dedication towards the promotion of Chinese culture. Gung Hay Fat Choi!

## HOW TO CONTACT US

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For scheduling inquiries, email [virginia.kroger@asm.ca.gov](mailto:virginia.kroger@asm.ca.gov) for District Events or [alisia.nantze@asm.ca.gov](mailto:alisia.nantze@asm.ca.gov) for Capitol Events. Include the date, time, and purpose of the event.



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